

How can I improve as an Arabic teacher and network with others?

Attending professional development opportunities such as trainings or conferences is an important way to improve as an educator, especially in the fast-growing field of Arabic education.

An important side-benefit of such programs or conferences is being able to network with and learn from teachers from schools around the country. Arabic teachers from a variety of schools tout the benefits of talking and collaborating with other teachers. Meeting with like-minded colleagues can offer excellent opportunities to share ideas or even jointly develop plans or materials.

Attending these programs may require the support (financial or otherwise) of your school administration or funding sources from outside of your school. Here is a list of programs that may be of interest:

STARTALK programs

- STARTALK offers a number of programs each summer that train and support Arabic teachers. Click [here](#) to view the STARTALK program database or the Arabic teacher programs offered in 2015 as a sample.
- Professional Development and Training Programs for Teachers

- QFI has gathered a list of variety of teacher professional development summer professional development opportunities for 2015 that may be of interest to Arabic teachers. Search for opportunities on the list that seem interesting to get the most up-to-date information.
- Concordia Language Villages runs a series of academic-year professional development workshops for Arabic teachers that combine webinars with in-person sessions.
- The Aldeen Foundation offers online Arabic teacher training workshops throughout the school year.

Professional Associations and Conferences

The conferences of professional associations where Arabic teachers gather are an excellent opportunity for meeting and networking with other teachers.

- QFI supports a number of regional Arabic teachers' councils around the USA, including councils based in Washington DC, Michigan, Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York.
- ACTFL - The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages holds an



annual national conference at which many Arabic teachers gather. The ACTFL Arabic special interest group (SIG) also gathers at this conference.

- There are a number of regional language teaching councils that hold conferences around the country that may be of interest
 - NECTFL is a conference for language teachers in the Northeast US region and attracts a number of Arabic teachers each year.
 - MIWLA is the Michigan World Language Association, which holds a conference in an area with a large number of Arabic teachers.
 - Search for your own state or regional language association to connect with other language teachers and seek out the Arabic teaching community in your area.
- AATA - The American Association of Teachers of Arabic is a professional organization for Arabic teachers that meets yearly at the Middle East Studies Association conference.
- NCOLCTL - The National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages advocates for the teaching of LCTLs and holds a yearly conference.

